

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, JA

SUBJECT: JAPANESE DEVELOPMENT OF ELECTRIC VEHICLES

SUMMARY. THE GOJ AND PRIVATE INDUSTRY WILL FORM A NEW ASSOCIATION TO PROMOTE DEVELOPMENT OF ELECTRIC VEHICLE TECHNOLOGY. THE ASSOCIATION WILL RECEIVE INITIAL FUNDING OF ONE MILLION DOLLARS. END SUMMARY.

1. THE MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY, TOGETHER WITH SEVERAL PRIVATE INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS, HAS ANNOUNCED FORMATION OF THE JAPAN ELECTRIC POWERED VEHICLE ASSOCIATION. THE ASSOCIATION WILL BE FUNDED ON A FIFTY-FIFTY BASIS, WITH MITI PROVIDING HALF OF THE INITIAL SUBSCRIPTION, AND PRIVATE INDUSTRY PROVIDING THE REST. TOTAL FUNDS FOR THE FIRST YEAR WILL BE APPROXIMATELY ONE MILLION DOLLARS.

2. THE ASSOCIATION WILL INITIALLY CONCENTRATE ON FOUR PROJECTS.

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A. BUILDING A TRACK FOR TESTING OF PROTOTYPE ELECTRIC VEHICLES.

B. UNDERTAKING A STUDY ON BATTERY RECHARGING SYSTEMS FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLES.

C. PROMOTING PARTICIPATION IN THE ELECTRIC AUTOMOBILE EXPOSITION TO BE HELD IN CHICAGO NEXT APRIL.

D. BEGINNING STUDY OF HYBRID ELECTRIC VEHICLE TECHNOLOGY.

3. MR. EIJI TOYODA, PRESIDENT OF TOYOTA MOTOR CO. AND PRESIDENT OF THE JAPAN AUTOMOBILE MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION, HAS BEEN NAMED PRESIDENT OF THE NEW ASSOCIATION. BESIDES THE AUTOMOBILE MANUFACTURING COMPANIES, OTHER SPONSORS OR THE NEW ASSOCIATION INCLUDE BATTERY MANUFACTURING COMPANIES, ELECTRIC POWER COMPANIES AND THE JAPAN MIDGET AUTOMOBILE PROMOTION ASSOCIATION.

4. WHILE JAPAN HAS APPROXIMATELY 5000 ELECTRIC VEHICLES IN OPERATION, INCLUDING GOLF CARTS, TOWMOTORS, DELIVERY VANS AND MICROBUSES, THEY ARE LIMITED IN RANGE AND ENDURANCE. THE NEW ASSOCIATION WILL WORK TO MAKE ELECTRIC VEHICLES MORE USEFUL IN GENERAL SERVICE IN JAPAN.
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